

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate for a surface cleaner, comprising ~~constituted by~~ a plate (1) of a ~~generally~~ rectangular shape, provided with gripping and manipulating means, as well as with means for securing pieces of textile, characterised in that said gripping and manipulating means ~~5, 19, 27, 29~~, between, ~~on one hand,~~ the broom-stick (17) or the holding handle (18) and, ~~on the other hand, and~~ a central rod (5) connected to the plate (1), are interchangeable and in that there are a plurality of means for fixing different types of pieces of textile to the plate, said means being at least one of the following:

- on ^{on} the lower base (6) of the plate, plane portions for self-gripping strips (8);
- on ^{on} the upper face (3) of the plate, at least clamping mechanisms (11) co-operating with windows or cavities (9, 10) in the plate (1) to hold the types of pieces of textile ~~all types of pieces~~ having turned-back edges, and holes (16) suitable for press stud systems for fixing clips.

2. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that the interchangeable gripping and manipulating means include a joint (19) pivoting on the rod (5), wherein the joint ~~which~~ is equipped with two flexible strips (20) for detaching the stick (17) or the handle (18) from the plate.

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3. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 2, characterised in that the strips ~~(20)~~ bear toes capable of sliding in positioning guides ~~(23)~~ that form part of a sleeve ~~(24)~~ for supporting the broom-stick ~~(47)~~ or the handle ~~(48)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 2, characterised in that ~~the~~ an outer border of the joint ~~(49)~~ is provided with clipping toes ~~(35)~~ and, opposite the toes, with holes provided in the wall to increase ~~the~~ a flexibility of ~~the latter~~ the clipping toes.

5. (Withdrawn) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that the interchangeable gripping and manipulating means include a joint (27) that pivots about a specially shaped pin (29) displaceable longitudinally in relation to the plate (1).

6. (Withdrawn) Multifunction plate according to claim 5, characterised in that the articulation (27) is provided with cut-out portions (28) spaced apart like flats (26) borne by the specially shaped pin (29).

7. (Cancel)

8. (Cancel)

9. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that the lower base (6) is provided with cavities (7) framed by ~~plane~~ planar, longitudinal portions serving to receive the self-gripping strips (8).

10. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that ~~the~~ a clamping mechanism is constituted by a ~~specialy~~ shaped strip (11) co-operating with a central window (9) and two lateral cavities (10) provided on the upper face (3) of the plate (4).

11. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claims 1 or and 10, characterised in that the strip (11) is specially shaped to form an arch, the ends of the lateral wings (12) of which are placed in the cavities (10), and in that a system (14, 15) for clipping the strip in the central window (9) ~~is provided in the center of the strip~~ is provided in a center of the strip for clipping the strip in the central window.

12. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 11, characterised in that ~~the~~ a clipping system is constituted by resilient bars (14) ending in toes which extend under ~~the~~ a central portion of the strip (11).

13. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 10, characterised in that two rigid levers (33) extend into a cut-out portion (34) of the strip (11) and bear, via a rib (34), on the upper face of the plate.

14. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 10, characterised in that two rigid levers ~~(33)~~ are L-shaped and mounted on strips ~~(44)~~ and come to bear against a bridge member ~~(37)~~ integral with the plate.

15. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 13, characterised in that ~~the~~ a clipping system of the strip ~~(44)~~ is constituted by two resilient bars ~~(14)~~ beneath each of ~~the borders (32)~~ a border of the strip, which penetrate two adjacent central windows ~~(9)~~ provided in the plate ~~(4)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 10, characterised in that the ~~clamping~~ shaped strip ~~(44)~~ is designed as a bell type strip which is actuated in its center for rapid disengagement of its end projections ~~(43)~~ from the cavities ~~(40)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that the holes ~~(46)~~, suitable for press stud systems, are provided on the ends of the plate ~~(4)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that the holes have an oval profile orientated longitudinally of the plate ~~(4)~~.

19. (Cancel)

20. (Currently Amended) Multifunction plate according to claim 1, characterised in that a sponge support ~~(30)~~ is clipped into the holes ~~(16)~~ under the lower base ~~(6)~~ of the plate.
